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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Joint Meeting of the Scientific and Technical
Committee and the Socio-Economic Committee

Athens, 3-8 April 1995

BARCELONA DECLARATION/RESOLUTION

**Barcelona Declaration on
the Third Mediterranean Decade**

The Minister in Charge of the Environment in the Mediterranean countries representing the Governments and the member of the European Commission responsible for the Environment, having met in Barcelona, Spain, on 9 and 10 June 1995, within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan:

1. **Reaffirming** their commitments undertaken during the Intergovernmental Meeting on the protection of the Mediterranean Sea held in Barcelona in 1975, with the adoption of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP);
2. **Recalling** the scope of the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols;
3. **Recalling** the results of the Genoa Declaration on the Second Mediterranean Decade (1985), the Nicosia Charter (1990), the Declaration on Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation on the Environment (1992) and the Tunis Declaration on Sustainable Development (1994);
4. **Recognising** the important contribution of the Mediterranean Action Plan during the last two decades towards the process of achieving sustainable development in the Mediterranean region;
5. **Recognising** the important work carried out by the Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan and its Regional Activity Centres (RACs);
6. **Recognising** the important work of the MEDPOL programme for the continuous assessment of the state of the Mediterranean environment as well as the pollution control measures adopted by the Contracting Parties, and the significant contribution that their implementation would give to the effective elimination of pollution;
7. **Recognising** that an environmental legal system and environmental institutional structure have been promoted and established at the regional and national levels;
8. **Bearing in mind** the differences in Socio-Economic development still existing between the Mediterranean coastal states which require the strengthening of regional cooperation;
9. **Recognising** the progress achieved since the adoption of the Genoa Declaration (1985), while noting that the state of the environmental quality of the Mediterranean Sea requires greatly accelerated action;

10. **Aware** of the continued environmental and development pressure on the marine and coastal areas and its ecosystem, due to the phenomenon of urbanisation, population growth and economic development which resulted in the degradation of the marine and coastal areas of the Mediterranean region as clearly indicated by the Blue Plan studies;
11. **Express their satisfaction** at the adoption of the amendments to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea, and in particular, the precautionary principle, the Environmental Impact Assessment, and the principle of "polluter pays";
12. **Stress** the importance of the adoption of the amendments to the Dumping protocol whereby the dumping into the sea of all kinds of industrial wastes and the incineration at sea of wastes are prohibited;
13. **Express their satisfaction** at the adoption of the new protocol on protected areas and biodiversity;
14. **Express their satisfaction** at the resolution adopted by the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties on the use of land management tools with a view to ensuring the conservation of the coastal Mediterranean areas.
15. **Confirming**, individually and collectively, their commitment to the protection of the Mediterranean environment and better understanding and cooperation among the people of the region;
16. **Confirming** their commitment to promote sustainable development when formulating and implementing national and regional environment development policies, bearing in mind the UNCED and TUNIS Declarations;
17. **Reaffirming** their determination to accelerate their cooperation through a new phase of partnership and solidarity;
18. **Adopt Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II (MAP Phase II)** as recommended by the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention;
19. **Firmly believing** that Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP Phase II) should be based on the following principles;
 - ensure sustainable development and management of natural marine and land resources; bearing in mind Agenda MED 21;
 - integrate the environment in economic development and land planning policies;

- prevent pollution of the Mediterranean Sea and of its coastal zones
 - protect and enhance the sites and landscapes of ecological or cultural value;
 - establish national enforcement and control mechanisms which would follow up the implementation of Convention, its related protocols and the adopted protection measures;
 - enhance the support and involvement of international, regional and national Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) and the public;
20. **Commit themselves** to the full implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II, the Barcelona Convention and its Related Protocols;
21. **Agree with the reduction**, by the year 2000 of the disposals and emissions of toxic and persistent substances as well as those likely to bioaccumulate, in particular the organohalogenes which may reach the marine environment, to levels not harmful to man or nature with a view to their gradual elimination. To this end, to bring about substantial reductions of such disposals and emissions, and if necessary, to complete the reduction measures with programmes aiming at banning the use of such substances and instructing the Contracting Parties to review regularly the relevant timetables.
22. **Commit themselves** to implementing the programme of activities for the next decade (1996-2005) as approved by the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties; bearing in mind document "Agenda MED 21" prepared by the Tunis Conference on Sustainable Development;
23. **Decide** to create within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan a Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) which will be composed of representatives of states, European Union, international governmental and non-governmental organisations and independent personalities, and entrust the Coordinating Unit with the task of preparing a concrete proposal on the Terms of Reference of the Commission;
24. **Entrust** the Coordinating Unit with the task of convening the necessary working groups to prepare the texts on the Protocol concerning the transboundary movements of wastes and their disposal and on the amendments of the Land-Based Sources Protocol.

25. **Request** that the Executive Director of UNEP convene a Conference of Plenipotentiaries to adopt these texts.
26. **Invite** the international organisations and other financial and development programmes to contribute to the implementation of the new phase of the Mediterranean Action Plan, and to coordinate and harmonise their programmes relevant to the Mediterranean region with MAP.